

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method in a data processing system for providing addresses to clients, the computer implemented method comprising:

receiving a request from a client for an address, wherein the request comprises a unique client identifier and authentication information, and wherein the authentication information comprises at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate;

determining whether the authentication information is present in the request;

responsive to determining that the authentication information is present in the request, performing a verification process on the authentication information to authenticate the request;

responsive to authenticating the request, checking a privileged address table to determine whether a privileged address is assigned to the client, wherein the privileged address is a static internet protocol address in a pool of privileged addresses stored in a memory of the data processing system;

responsive to determining that the privileged address is assigned to the client, assigning the previously assigned privileged address to the client to form a previously assigned privileged address and sending an offer to the client, wherein the offer comprises the previously assigned privileged address and the authentication information; and

responsive to determining that the privileged address is not assigned to the client, assigning a unassigned privileged address, from the pool of privileged addresses, to the client to form an assigned privileged address and sending the offer to the client, wherein the offer comprises the assigned privileged address and the authentication information.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 24, further comprising responsive to the authentication information being unverified, denying the request.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 24, further comprising responsive to the authentication information being unauthenticated, providing a standard address to the client.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer implemented method of claim 24, wherein the previously assigned privileged address is identical to a previous privileged address that was previously provided to the client in response to a previously received request from the client.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer implemented method in a data processing system for assigning addresses to clients, the computer implemented method comprising:

 sending a request for a privileged address to a server from a client, wherein the request comprises:

 a unique client identifier and authentication information, wherein the authentication information comprises at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate, wherein the server performs a verification process on the authentication information to authenticate the request, and wherein the privileged address is a static internet protocol address in a pool of privileged addresses;

 receiving an offer from the server, wherein the offer comprises a privileged address and authentication information;

 determining whether the offer is authentic; and

 responsive to determining that the offer is authentic, accepting the offer.

29. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for providing addresses to clients, the data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions;

a communications adaptor connected to the bus system; and

a processor unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processor unit executes the set of instructions to

~~receiving means for receiving~~ receive a request from a client for an address, wherein the request comprises a unique client identifier and authentication information, and wherein the authentication information comprises at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate;

~~determining means for determining~~ determine whether the authentication information is present in the request;

~~responsive to determining that the authentication information is present in the request, performing means for performing~~ perform a verification process on the authentication information to authenticate the request, ~~responsive to determining that the authentication information is present in the request;~~

~~responsive to authenticating the request, checking means for checking~~ check a privileged address table to determine whether a privileged address is assigned to the client, wherein the privileged address is

a static internet protocol address in a pool of privileged addresses stored in a memory of the data processing system, responsive to authenticating the request;

~~responsive to determining that the privileged address is assigned to the client~~; ~~assigning means for assigning~~ assign the previously assigned privileged address to the client to form a previously assigned privileged address and sending means for sending an offer to the client, wherein the offer comprises the previously assigned privileged address and the authentication information, responsive to determining that the privileged address is assigned to the client; and

~~responsive to determining that the privileged address is not assigned to the client~~; ~~assigning means for assigning~~ assign the privileged address, from the pool of privileged addresses to form an assigned privileged address, to the client and sending means for sending an offer to the client, wherein the offer comprises the assigned privileged address and the authentication information, responsive to determining that the privileged address is not assigned to the client.

30. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ data processing system of claim 29, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to further comprising responsive to the authentication information being unverified, denying means for denying the request, responsive to the authentication information being unverified.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ data processing system of claim 29, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to further comprising responsive to the authentication information being unauthenticated, providing means for providing provide a standard address to the client, responsive to the authentication information being unauthenticated.

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ data processing system of claim 29, wherein the previously assigned privileged address is identical to a previous privileged address that was previously provided to the client in response to a previously received request from the client.

33. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for assigning addresses to clients, the data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions;

a communications adaptor connected to the bus system; and

a processor unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processor unit executes the set of instructions to

~~sending means for sending~~ send a request for a privileged address to a server from a client, wherein the request comprises a unique client identifier and authentication information, and wherein the authentication information comprises at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate, wherein the server performs a verification process on the authentication information to authenticate the request, and wherein the privileged address is a static internet protocol address in a set of privileged addresses stored in a memory of a data processing system, and wherein the authentication information comprises at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate;

~~receiving means for receiving~~ receive an offer, wherein the offer comprises a privileged address and authentication information;

~~determining means for determining~~ determine whether the offer is authentic; and

~~responsive to determining that the offer is authentic,~~ accepting means for accepting accept the offer responsive to determining that the offer is authentic.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored in a computer readable storage medium storing executable instructions to be executed by a processor for providing addresses to clients when executed by a data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for receiving a request from a client for an address, wherein the request comprises a unique client identifier and authentication information, and wherein the authentication information comprises at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate;

instructions for determining whether the authentication information is present in the request;

instructions for performing a verification process on the authentication information to authenticate the request responsive to determining that the authentication information is present in the request;

instructions for checking a privileged address table to determine whether an privileged address is assigned to the client, responsive to authenticating the request, wherein the privileged address is a static internet protocol address in a pool of privileged addresses stored in a memory of the data processing system;

instructions for assigning the previously assigned privileged address to the client and sending an offer to the client, responsive to determining that the privileged address is assigned to the client forming a previously assigned privileged address, wherein the offer comprises the previously assigned privileged address and the authentication information; and

instructions for assigning the privileged address from the pool of privileged addresses to the client and sending an offer to the client, responsive to determining that the privileged address is not assigned to

the client forming an assigned privileged address, wherein the offer comprises the assigned privileged address and the authentication information.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-implemented method~~ computer program product of claim 34, further comprising instructions for denying the request responsive to the authentication information being unverified.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-implemented method~~ computer program product of claim 34, further comprising instructions for providing a standard address to the client responsive to the authentication information being unauthenticated.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer-implemented method~~ computer program product of claim 34, wherein the previously assigned privileged address is identical to a previous privileged address that was previously provided to the client in response to a previously received request from the client.

38. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored in a computer readable storage medium storing executable instructions to be executed by a processor in a data processing system for assigning addresses to clients when executed by the data processing system, said computer program product comprising:

instructions for sending a request for a privileged address to a server from a client, wherein the request comprises a unique client identifier and authentication information, and wherein the authentication information comprises at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate, wherein the server performs a verification process on the authentication information to authenticate the request, and wherein the privileged address is a static internet protocol address in a set of privileged addresses stored in a memory of a data processing system and wherein the authentication information comprises at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate;

instructions for receiving an offer, wherein the offer comprises a privileged address and authentication information;

instructions for determining whether the offer is authentic; and

instructions for accepting the offer, responsive to determining that the offer is authentic.

39. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for providing addresses to clients, the data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions;

a communications adaptor connected to the bus system; and

a processor unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processor unit executes the set of instructions to ~~for receiving~~ receive a request from a client for an address, wherein the request comprises a unique client identifier and authentication information, and wherein the authentication information comprises at least one of a pass phrase and a digital certificate;

~~determining~~ determine whether the authentication information is present in the request;

~~responsive to determining that the authentication information is present in the request, performing~~ perform a verification process on the authentication information to authenticate the request, ~~responsive to determining that the authentication information is present in the request;~~

~~responsive to authenticating the request, checking~~ check a privileged address table to determine whether a privileged address is assigned to the client, ~~responsive to authenticating the request,~~ wherein the privileged address is a static internet protocol address in a pool of privileged addresses stored in a memory of a data processing system;

~~responsive to determining that the privileged address is assigned to the client, assigning~~ assign the previously assigned privileged address to the client to form a previously assigned privileged address and sending an offer to the client, ~~responsive to determining that the privileged address is assigned to the client,~~ wherein the offer comprises the previously assigned privileged address and the authentication information; and

~~responsive to determining that the privileged address is not assigned to the client, assigning~~ assign the privileged address, from the pool of privileged addresses to form an assigned privileged address, to the client and sending the offer to the client, ~~responsive to determining that the privileged address is not assigned to the client,~~ wherein the offer comprises the privileged address and the authentication information.